

**Parent CATS Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2021**

Board Member/Committee Attendance:

President: Kristen Christensen	Community Outreach Director: Saba Lausch
1 st Vice President: Melissa McGrory	Hospitality Director: Susie Erdal
2nd Vice President: Shannon Gordon	Spirit Store Directors: Stacie Herman, Megan Huber
Treasurer: Sarah Roe	Website: Karen Cordes
Secretary: Jennifer Quilty	Social Media Director: Jodie Benton
Activities Director: Meg Carter & Beth Kraft	GOAL: Vanessa Stalter
Career Resource Center: Colleen Scopacasa	Principal: Dr Thomas Koulentes
Gym Uniform Director: Jennifer Tepper & Carina Decroes	

Board Reports:

Kristen Christensen, President Report:

Welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. The goals of the Parent CATS are to support all LHS students by promoting school spirit and community involvement; supporting LHS curriculum, student organizations and activities consistent with school policy, and to encourage community participation. There is a new committee this year that will focus on fundraising. We need the funds to support all the outstanding activities and events planned for this year. If you are interested in participating on the Fundraising Committee or being the Fundraising Chair, please contact Kristen directly.

Melissa McGrory, 1st VP report

The responsibility of 1st VP is to recruit volunteers for the board, committee, and for Parent CATS events. There are many ways to participate in the Parent CATS, volunteer opportunities occur through the year and will be posted on the Parent CATS Facebook site and through the Parent CATS email. The 1st VP is also the chair of the Nomination Committee for the Parent CATS Board and Committee positions. If you are interested in being on the Parent CATS slate for Committee or Board positions next year, please contact Melissa. There are opportunities to shadow current members to learn the role this year.

Shannon Gordon, 2nd VP: The 2nd VP is the liaison to the Family Association of D70 and is responsible for the production and distribution of the LHS Student Directories. The directories are a fundraiser for Parent CATS.

Sarah Roe, Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for the Parent CATS funds and the reporting of the funds to the Parent CATS Board and LHS parents. The budget will be updated and posted monthly. Sarah shared the current budget and expenditures for 2021. The expenditures are greater than previous years due to the surplus in funds from 2020. New for 2021, we have an opportunity to collect donations electronically through Venmo @parentcats.

Jenny Quilty, Secretary: Minutes for each meeting will be posted on the Parent CATS website <https://www.d128.org/lhs/parents/parent-organizations/parent-cats/documents-forms-and-newsletters>

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Committee Reports:

- Gym uniform: Partnered with Sports 11 for online sales. It was a great partnership and a good fundraiser for Parent CATS. Gym uniforms can also be purchased through the Spirit Store. For the rest of the year, the online store for gym uniforms will be closed, uniforms should be purchased exclusively through the Spirit Store.
- CRC: Volunteer requests were sent and filled within 5 minutes. We had our first college rep in today and they will be here throughout the year. We are adding a resume workshop, October 9th.
- Hospitality: We catered a staff breakfast, and it was very appreciated. Thank you to the volunteers and for the donations to provide Panera to the staff. We will host a lunch for coaches, activity/art and club sponsors in October. We will confirm the date and send out information.
- Activities: The primary activity is to organize coat checks for dances. Homecoming is scheduled for October 2nd and we'll set up a volunteer website for volunteers.
- Spirit Store: Moved into a new location, had a great response at Open House, and are restocking but working through Covid shipping delays. Will be at all the home football games, and open on Fridays from 10-2. We are planning a Fall online store and will have a pop-up store at the Homecoming Window Painting event in Cook Park. Parents are welcome to visit the store in LHS, just need to check in at the desk on your way in.
- GOAL Award: No new report but is chaired by Vanessa Stalter.
- Website: Recently updated the website to reflect the new committee members for the school year, meeting dates, etc. If you need anything updated, please contact Karen Cordes.
- Social Media: Posts information for volunteer or activities on the Facebook site. Follow the Parent CATS on Facebook and on Twitter @LHSparentcats
- Community Outreach: Largest project is painting windows for Homecoming; the theme is Rock the Ville. Signups went to all the clubs and we have 10 stores committed already. It is on Sunday 9/26 from 11-4; home base is in Cook Park. We will need volunteers to register students, and provide their supplies, and to chaperone the event. The School of Rock will have their house band play at Cook Park during the event.
- Libertyville Connect Coalition: Partners with LHS, formed in 2017 by parents to combat substance, alcohol, tobacco, and drug use within Libertyville. They distributed their resource guide that is available for parents. You can find them on their [website](#), or the Libertyville Connect Facebook Page or Twitter. They have discussed 5 strategies to raise a drug free child. They are partnering with WHMW and are looking for more parents to join their group.
- Wildcat Health and Mental Wellness: Partners with LHS, formed in 2018 have separate meetings but is led by parents that focus on programming that supports the wellness for students. Recently sent a survey asking to prioritize content for this school year.

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Dr. Koulentes Report:

Dr. Koulentes welcomed the team and explained the purpose of his reports, he'll highlight areas of the school, curriculum and will bring in guest speakers to discuss issues important to LHS parents and students.

We have had a good start to the year with a focus on restoration and renewal. We had a senior class reunion before school started and had 300 students attend and explain to them how important it is for them to lead the way as they are the only students that have attended a full four years on campus at LHS. Seniors have an opportunity to reopen our school and restore, rethink, and redesign an even better LHS that they left 2 years ago. The staff was given the same challenge, and they wanted to restore wildcat pride, spirit, and engage all the benefits of in person learning. For renewal and redesign, we have engaged in large scale efforts for our use of time in the school day, we have a group of staff members, parent and student representation on how to best utilize time in our school day (i.e. block vs traditional schedule). We are reviewing our grading policies, we extended our redo and make up policy from 2020, we are developing policies that are most effective for their learners and a clearly articulated policy.

We are creating a strategic plan for D128 and it will be our roadmap for the district to meet our goals and priorities. We'll include parents, staff, community stakeholders, and students as input into the plan.

Tom thanked the Parent CATs for their support for the opening day with the [Card My Yard](#) and the [Sparkle & Twine](#) balloons. The students, especially the seniors, were excited to be back and create a festive atmosphere. The donation of \$5000 to the courtyard was 10% of the cost to complete, thank you for your donations. It is being used as an outdoor classroom and can be used by teachers or clubs throughout the day.

Thank you for the staff breakfast and thank you for attending the open house.

The Parent CATs have been so active in supporting the school and we are so grateful. The Spirit Store is up and running.

Homecoming, still scheduled may have the dance portion outside and having indoor activities as well. We are actively working on the plan and the Student Council is leading it. We will get back to you for more information and for volunteers.

Denise Hermann, the new superintendent, is an IL native started as a chemistry teacher in St Charles.

Denise described D128 as an excellent, high performing district and she wants us to focus on global, technology, wellness, and mental health. Has a personal connection to maintaining self-care, mental health and wellness and wants to make sure that we make it accessible to

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students and make sure that we have good partnerships for students that need support. Love the sciences, the arts, and athletics, she loved high school and is excited to be a part of their educational lives. We are here to develop the whole person to be successful, not just for their academics. We want to make sure that they are prepared to be successful in areas outside of performing on tests, i.e., presentation skills, learning and working with diversity, these are part of our daring mission and we want to make sure every student practices and documents it and takes it with them. This will be part of the strategic plan. The DARING Mission drove me here, but we must make sure that we measure and deliver on it especially for non-academic skills. We want to document their growth on their non-academic growth.

Denise has two adult daughters and is a grandmother of 8. She knows how much we want our children to have a great educational experience. She is thrilled to be here, has had a very positive start and is a member of the Libertyville community.

Question:

- **How will approach the differences between Libertyville and Vernon Hills?** In a previous role, she had 5 different schools within the district. Each had their own demographic and needs but high expectations for both schools. We'll set clear and high expectations for all learners in the district and customize how it happens depending on the specific needs of the community.

Really enjoy parent communication, please send an email (preferred communication) if you have any questions, concerns, etc.

Ask Dr. Koulentes:

Please send topics and questions for Dr. Koulentes to the Parent Cats email.

- **What is Yellow Ribbon?** It is Yellow Ribbon Week, this week is focused on healthy body, mind, discourse, and relationships. Yellow is healthy minds, mental health, students to understand resources in the building, how to support friends, family members and classmates. Yellow ribbon is suicide prevention and wellness.
- **Different temperatures in the building?** We are a large building and we have invested in HVAC and air conditioning but there is still variability in the building based on the age of the air conditioning (HVAC) in the building. The temperature is mainly consistent unless it's extreme (cold or heat), overall, the students say it's too cold in the building vs too hot. Covid air quality guidelines have been addressed. We are bringing in fresh air into the building. They exceed the community health standards, from ISBE or CDC for covid. The new field house will be done in early November and will have new HVAC and lighting.
- **What's happening with Covid?** We are being very vigilant about local covid data and have two dashboards linked to our website, one to our community and county, the other is the LHS school data. It's updated daily. Over 90% of our staff is vaccinated, and 80% of our students are vaccinated and more are going through the process. We still must

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contact trace; we immediately work with a student that test positive and notify parents if you student is a close contact. If you child is not vaccinated, then they do not have to quarantine (usually). Our nurses will work with you if your child is exposed or needs to quarantine. Per Governor Priztker's guidance, any student that is quarantined will be live streamed into their classes and that's effective immediately.

- **What is a teacher has to quarantine?** If the teacher must quarantine, the teacher may teach from home with a sub in the classroom, if they are unable to teach from home then a sub will be hired to teach until the teacher can return.
- **What is the protocol during cold and flu season?** Many of the symptoms are covid symptoms if you aren't feeling well please stay home until the symptoms passed or get tested through a medical provider. If you child is out with a cold, the LST will ask about your symptoms, you may have to get a doctor's note or a cleared test to return to school. If a child shows up in a class and looks ill, the teachers will ask the student to go to the nurse. The nurse can provide a rapid test, and if negative the student will have a pass and was screened and okay to attend class.
- **Is there any weekly covid testing?** Yes, for all non-vax students that are in extra curriculars and all unvaccinated staff are tested weekly.
- **What is the final exam schedule?** We don't have a special schedule for finals, teachers can choose to administer final tests, but many are doing projects, etc. 12/21-12/23 are three days of school and could have final tests. The whole semester will end prior to winter break.